

WEEKLY COURIER. CURRENT TOPICS.

C. DOANE, Publisher.

JASPER. INDIANA.

The suit to test the validity of the McKinley tariff law was begun in the supreme court of the United States on the 30th.

The United States steamer New York was launched from the Philadelphia shipyard of the Cramps, in the presence of a large party of distinguished invited guests, on the 3d.

Gov. ELECT MCKINLEY, who was to have been the principal guest at the inaugural dinner of the Fellowship club of Chicago, telegraphed, on the 3d, that illness of his wife compelled him at the last moment to cancel the engagement.

The St. Petersburg Novosti says that Capri's speech in the reichstag depicts the hostile articles in the German Rumpshope papers of all their importance. The visit of M. De Giers has had a valuable result in dispelling the clouds between Germany and Russia and France.

The protective building connected with the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, near Newburg, N. Y., was burned to the ground on the 1st. There were 240 children sleeping in the building, but all were got out safely. The structure was a four-story brick. Loss, about \$40,000.

REV. FATHER PETER HAYEMANS, of Troy, N. Y., commemorated, on the 30th, the sixty-first anniversary of his ordination in the priesthood. He is the oldest priest in this country, having been born in Belgium in 1805, and entering the ministry in this country twenty-five years later.

The Canadian Pacific has decided to build a double track on its road between Winnipeg, Man., and Lake Superior, a distance of over 400 miles. The building of this line is rendered necessary by the inability of the company to properly handle the Manitoba wheat crop. It is expected that the line will be completed in three years.

ISAAC SAWTELLE, convicted at Concord, N. H., and sentenced to be hanged January 5 for the murder of his brother Hiram, has made affidavit that he killed his brother, but did it in Maine. He hopes by this means to escape hanging, as there is no capital punishment in Maine. The court is considering the affidavit as part of an application for a new trial.

An awful calamity occurred at Blackburn, England, on the 30th. An explosion from some unknown cause took place in the cellar of the Crown hotel, causing the collapse of the hotel and a large number of persons in the ruins, most of whom were burned to death in the fire which followed. Thirty-two persons are believed to have lost their lives.

In reply to an interrogatory in the Italian chamber of deputies, on the 29th, Signor Nicotra, minister of the interior, stated that regardless of what might be said and done inside or outside the country, Italy considers the question of the status of the papacy as having been finally settled. The minister's declaration was received by the chamber with loud and long-continued applause.

OSBORN COLLEGE is again rejoicing over a handsome bequest. By the will of Rev. C. V. Spear, who died a few months ago, while abroad, the college receives \$65,000, subject to small annuities to his wife, child and one friend of the family. Dr. Spear was donor of the fine library building and the \$25,000 library endowment. This is the second large gift made to Oberlin within a month.

The condition of Cyrus W. Field, of New York, who, borne down by the many sad afflictions which have recently befallen him and his family, had been dangerously high to death's door, was considerably improved on the 3d. He sat up for some time, and his physician reported that he was in a fair way to recover. The latter prophesies, however, that Mr. Field will never again be the man he was before his illness.

ARCHDUKE HENRI REXER, of Austria, whose wife, the Baroness von Valdeck, died on the 29th, died on the following day, of pneumonia, the disease which caused the death of the baroness. The latter was formerly Leopoldine Hoffman, and she was organically married to the archduke in 1868. Their marriage gave offense to the emperor, and it was not until some years later that he recognized the relation and elevated Leopoldine to the nobility.

H. Z. WILSON and party, of Chicago, who arrived at Vancouver, B. C., on the 2d, on the steamer Empress of Japan, say that the official report of the late disastrous earthquake in that country places the number of killed at 8,000 and the injured 9,000. One-third of the injured will die. The sickness and damage to property resulting from the disaster is incalculable. The foreigners of Yokohama have subscribed \$10,000, and the Japanese government has appropriated \$2,250 for the relief of the sufferers.

The total grain movement for the first three months of the crop year in the spring wheat states of Minnesota and the two Dakotas shows receipts at the two terminal points—Duluth and Minneapolis—of 32,000,000 bushels. The figures are official for both cities, except for the last day of November. This is estimated at one-third of the entire crop of these states. Of this Duluth received 20,000,000 bushels and Minneapolis 24,000,000 bushels. There are now in store at the two cities 8,000,000 bushels. This movement far exceeds anything ever known in this country or elsewhere.

THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

JUDGE JAMES M. COFFINBERRY, one of the oldest members of the Cleveland (O.) bar, a fine orator and a brilliant writer, died on the 29th, aged 73.

REV. JAMES FIELD SPAULDING, for twelve years rector of Christ church, Cambridge, Mass., who recently resigned, on the 29th announced to his parishioners that he had become a convert to Romanism.

The fiftieth anniversary of the consecration to the episcopate of Peter Richard Kenrick, archbishop of St. Louis, was celebrated in that city on the 30th.

An effort is being made by friends of Dr. J. W. Hamilton to have the president reappoint him surgeon-general of the marine hospital service.

The strike of miners in the Pas-de-Calais district of France, involving 40,000 men, is over. The men returned to work on the 1st.

The death of Richard Power, member of parliament for Waterford city, and well known as the "whip" of the Parnellite party, occurred on the 29th. The event was a great shock to the Irish parliamentary party, and to politicians in general.

The strife between the Burlington and the Fremont & Elkhorn roads for right of way through Spearfish canyon, S. D., culminated, on the 30th, in a pitched battle with fistcutting between the graders of the roads, numbering about 100. This had been anticipated, and more serious trouble was thought to have been in store, as quite a number of arms had been sent to the two forces. The sheriff, with a force of deputies, proceeded to the scene of the strife to preserve the peace.

At the Bow-street (London) court R. C. Moore, who is charged on his own confession with stealing a number of United States mail bags, at Clarke, Neb., was remanded, on the 1st, to await the action of the United States postal authorities.

DURING the past year, among the 6,368,460 pieces of mail matter sent to the dead letter office were 32,273 containing money aggregating \$47,983. Of these 21,783, or 70 per cent., containing \$56,759, were finally delivered to the owners.

MICHAEL CARTER was killed and two of his assistants were seriously if not fatally injured, on the 30th, by the explosion of some stick dynamite which they were thawing for use in the Kincaid coal mines near Cornua, Mich.

It has been decided by the navy department that the double-turreted monitor Miantonomah, which is regarded as one of the most formidable vessels in the new navy, shall not leave American waters this winter. The building occupied by the Lincoln (Neb.) Paint and Color Co. was burned on the 1st. Loss on building, \$40,000; fully insured. The stock was estimated at from \$40,000 to \$75,000, partly insured.

At an early hour on the morning of the 1st a strange phenomenon was witnessed in the heavens by people in northern Indiana. What appeared to be a huge ball of fire shot athwart the sky, leaving in its trail a light which lasted fully ten seconds. The origin of the spectacle was about midway between the zenith and the horizon in the eastern sky, and the course observed was northward in a straight line.

The illness of Gen. Butler is very serious. Every effort has been made to keep the matter secret, but it can now safely be said that grave doubts of his recovery are entertained by those who are in a position to know most about his condition, and some of them assert that he will never again be able to leave his house at Lowell, Mass.

The total coinage executed at United States mints during the month of November was 10,854,376 pieces of value of \$3,679,250. Of this, denominations were as follows: Gold, 108,529 pieces, valued at \$1,743,899; silver, 3,885,756 pieces, valued at \$1,845,756; minor coin, 6,862,000 pieces, value \$99,795.

The issue of the new window 32 silver certificates began on the 1st. There was a brisk demand for early-numbered notes and the first 500 were soon taken up as souvenirs. No. 1 was allotted to Mrs. Window. No. 2 to Treasurer Nebeker and No. 3 to Assistant Secretary Cronin. The new notes will be put into circulation as rapidly as possible.

At the meeting of the citizens' executive committee having in charge the preparations for the encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in Washington in 1892 the reports submitted showed that ample arrangements will be made for the comfort of the old soldiers who attend. The guarantee fund is being rapidly subscribed.

Some one set fire to the Grand hotel at Leadville, Col., on the 1st, and the structure, with all its contents, was totally destroyed. A man named Matthews is missing, and was probably burned to death, as he was sick in bed when the flames broke out. The loss is \$10,000.

EDWARD M. FIELD, not satisfied with absorbing and squandering every dollar he could get hold of in the line of business, swept his father's (Cyrus W. Field) strong box clean of its valuable contents. At last accounts the elder Field was not expected to survive many hours.

By a collision on the Monon road between freight trains, on the 1st, near Crawfordsville, Ind., two engines were demolished and 122 cars loaded with merchandise and logs were reduced to kindling wood. The crews all jumped and escaped.

The McCarthys have decided to take decisive steps to secure the Paris fund. Mr. McCarthy and Timothy Healy have begun action against Mr. Monroe, the banker, who holds the funds, to decide the ownership thereof and compel the restoration of the money to its rightful owners.

A. B. BLOOM, a wealthy petroleum dealer of Pittsburgh, Pa., aged about 30, was thrown from his horse, on the 1st, and instantly killed.

EDWARD PETER, the American crook who swindled people by pretending to turn metal into gold, was rearrested in London, on the 3d, on a charge of selling bonds stolen from the Barings in 1883. He will be held for extradition.

JNO. C. EXO, ex-president of the Fifth national bank of New York, who has been a fugitive from justice in Canada for seven years, has arranged his affairs and will be able to return to New York in a short time.

EX-EMPEROR DOM PEDRO is seriously ill in Paris. He is suffering from diabetes complicated with chills. His daughter is with him, and he is attended by eminent physicians.

GEORGE J. REIS, his wife and three children, aged 20, 12 and 8, lost their lives by the burning of their home in Detroit, Mich., at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 2d.

The treasurer of Allen county, O., has filed suit against United States Senator-elect Calvin S. Brice for \$37,530 delinquent taxes and penalties.

The budget committee of the German reichstag have voted 900,000 marks for a German exhibit at the World's fair at Chicago.

FIVE persons were killed by an explosion in a dynamite factory at Haverstraw, N. Y., on the 2d.

On the evening of the 2d, two boys of West Superior, Wis., named August Shanson and Armour Glover, dug a cave in a pile of sawdust. The crust caved in on them and crushed them both to death.

The midnight south-bound express train on the East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia railroad was held up and robbed by two masked men, three miles east of Rome, Ga., on the night of the 2d. It is believed the robbers got less than \$1,000. Officers with bloodhounds were put on the trail of the robbers, supposed to be railroad men, as they were in possession of lanterns and keys belonging to the company.

The October statement of the Mexican Central Railroad Co. shows earnings of \$393,344; increase, \$219,461; net earnings, \$343,975; increase, \$83,444. Since January 1, gross, \$6,045,847; increase, \$84,232. Net, \$2,148,345; increase, \$97,143.

JOHN D. EAGLE, an Indianapolis (Ind.) mail carrier, attempted to get on an electric car, on the 3d, but missed his footing and fell to the track. The trailer, packed full of people, passed over him, causing instant death.

The czar has appointed a new metropolitan of the Greek church, and has decreed vigorous action against the Stundists, who, he says, "are injuring more and more the faith of our fathers."

The condition of Dom Pedro had so much improved, on the 2d, that his physicians believed him to be out of danger.

HARRY BOWMASTER, of Duquesne, Pa., was shot dead, on the night of the 2d, while trying to break into the residence of James Taylor.

WILLIS HARRHAY, eighteenth earl of Errol, died on the 3d. He was born in 1823, and succeeded to the earldom in 1848. He sat in the house of lords as Lord Kilmarnock.

The mercantile appraisers of Philadelphia were up before Judge Finletter in the court of quarter sessions on the 3d. They were Edward W. Patton, Samuel Hoseman, Albert Crawford, James B. Bell and Harry Hunter. Furman Shepard, the counsel for the appraisers, in their behalf pleaded guilty to two of the six indictments against them.

LATE NEWS ITEMS.

H. D. WILSON, ALLAN LOED, a clerk with socialist tendencies, visited the office of Russell Sage, the millionaire broker and investor of New York city, on the 4th, and securing a personal interview with Mr. Sage, demanded \$1,200,000 on pain of destruction of all in the office by dynamite. Mr. Sage began to temporize, and the crank threw the satchel he carried on the floor, when an awful explosion took place, killing the assassin himself and three others, and severely injuring all within that part of the building, among them Mr. Sage, whose injuries are of a very grave character.

As a West Indianapolis (Ind.) street car was crossing a network of railroad tracks at Kentucky avenue, on the 4th, a Big Four passenger engine, backing down from the depot, struck it and made a complete wreck of it. There were sixteen passengers in the car who were thrown in every direction. Strange as it may seem, none were killed outright, and but three persons were seriously hurt while six others were more or less bruised.

The business failures occurring throughout the country, during the seven days ended on the 4th, number, for the United States, 304, and for Canada 26, or a total of 330; as compared with a total of 293 for the previous week. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 312, representing 282 failures in the United States and 30 in the Dominion of Canada.

By a collision on the New York & New England railway, at East Thompson, Conn., on the 4th, between the steamboat train, bound east and two hours late, and a freight train, five persons were killed outright. Another was burned to death in the smoker, which took fire, and several others were seriously hurt, including at least one fatally.

The miners are gradually returning to work in the block coal mines in the Brazil (Ind.) district. Many who are newly will work at any price in preference to suffering their children to go hungry. Some of the miners and their families are actually in need of food and clothing, and if the trouble lasts much longer considerable suffering will prevail.

A FIRE occurred at Blair, Neb., on the 4th, in which six business blocks in the heart of the city were destroyed. Loss, about \$100,000. The cause of the fire is unknown.

M. LEMOXIER, president of the International Lodge of Peace, died in Paris on the 4th.

INDIANA STATE NEWS.

GEN. HOVEY'S FUNERAL.

Burial of the Governor of Indiana at Mt. Vernon.

MT. VERNON, Ind., Nov. 28.—The funeral of Gov. Hovey took place here Thursday. The remains were placed in the rotunda of the courthouse at 1 o'clock Thursday morning, lying in state until 11:30. The regular services were held in the court room at 2 p. m. Gov. Ira Chase delivered a very able sermon.

All of the state officers were here and many other prominent men, including Ex-Govs. Gray and Porter and Senator Turpie. At the grave Gov. Chase delivered another short address, followed by Ex-Govs. Porter and Isaac P. Gray, both of whom talked most eloquently. Then the G. A. R. ceremonies were performed and ended the last sad tributes to our illustrious dead statesman.

About 10,000 people were in attendance, most of whom passed through the courthouse to view the remains. The state militia was well represented, with eleven companies. There were also representative bodies from thirteen G. A. R. posts of the state, all forming with the procession.

UNION CITY complains of insufficient supply of natural gas.

RALPH WINTERS, aged 6, of Reno, was kicked to death by a horse.

A \$10,000 school house will be erected next spring at Centerville.

The waters about Eekery are filled with turtles from the size of a silver dollar to three feet in diameter.

ZIRA COSBY, son of one of the wealthiest farmers of Davies county, was arrested charged with burning Lorenzo Evans' barn one night last June.

MICHAEL SOHREN and wife, of Columbus, have seven children. The mother and seven children were stricken with typhoid fever a few days ago. The mother died the other night, and two of the children can't live, while the other three are very sick and will probably die. They contracted the malady from using water for drinking and culinary purposes from a well recently sunk on the site of an old livery stable.

At Columbus the twenty-one gamblers arrested the other day pleaded guilty before Mayor Graham and were fined \$20 each, a total of \$420.

THERE are already fourteen candidates in the field for nomination as sheriff on the democratic ticket of Shelby county.

EVERY vestige of the old courthouse at Laporte has been removed and the ground cleared for the proposed new building.

HINDSTAN, Martin county, has disappeared from the face of the earth. It was once a county seat, and in the early days an important trading post.

The famous suit of Mrs. Abigail Lience against Milton Shirk, regarding an old mill in Miami county, and which has been in the courts since 1871, was decided against the plaintiff. It had previously appeared in the dockets of Wabash, Cass and Howard counties, and was once decided in favor of Mrs. Lience.

MARTIN HALL, a Lagrange drug clerk, who was charged with poisoning Henry Hughes by putting poison in a dose of quinine and whisky which Hughes had called for, was the other day found guilty of murder and sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

A LIVERY stable belonging to George Fisher, at Indianapolis, was destroyed by fire at an early hour the other morning. Seven horses were suffocated by the smoke and more or less burned, but the timely arrival of the fire department saved the vehicles from serious damage. Loss \$83,000.

A BURGlar entered the residence of John Craig at Danville, securing several hundred dollars and Craig's pants. Craig is the showman who weighs something over 700 pounds.

Mrs. ESTHER PHILLIPS, of Clinton township, Elkhart county, died a few mornings ago, aged within six weeks of 90 years. She was the mother of eight children and could enumerate thirty-five grandchildren, sixty-four great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

NORTHERN Indiana is threatened with a coal famine that promises to work disaster and to cause considerable suffering. At points in Porter and adjoining counties farmers and residents of small hamlets are burning corn-cobs for fuel. Along the line of the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago railroad the famine is general, and the coal on hand is held at exorbitant prices. The cold weather only serves to add to the tale of woe.

A NEW gas well is to be dug in Anderson.

LOGANSPORT's electric cars are running.

TEX odd fellows have opened a reading room at Goshen.

REDKEY is to have a new glass factory which will employ three hundred people. Redkey, it may be remarked, has gas.

SOME one has sent the treasurer of Wabash college, in Crawfordsville, an express package for \$20,000. The donor is a modest friend of the college, and wishes his name withheld from the public. It is learned that the fund is not to be used except as an endowment for a chair of astronomy and fitting up of an observatory. There are many guesses as to who the gentleman is, and it is generally credited to S. H. Williams, of Lima, one of the college's honored trustees.

The national officers of the United Mine-workers have endorsed the miners' strike in Indiana and will give them financial aid. A hard and bitter fight is now on.

The other afternoon Miss Laura Woodruff, aged 17, of Raysville, was accidentally shot just above her heart while handling a revolver. She will recover.

The new race track at Elkhart extends for a distance of 320 feet over a tamarack swamp and during the late rains that portion of the track has sunk about eight feet. Lying into the sunken portion fall to show any thing like solid bottom short of 40 feet.

LATEST FROM CHILI.

Fugitives Returning as a Result of a Supreme Court Decision—Political Jealousies, Again Recurring Apparent—The Case of the Baltimore's Sailors—British Turmoils.

VALPARAISO, Dec. 4.—The decision of the supreme court virtually quashing the proceeding against Balmacedaist members of congress gives general satisfaction except to extremists. Several who had disappeared when the proposed prosecution was announced, have made their appearance again, and others are expected to return. It is reported that Senator Augustin Edwards, who was the chief financial supporter of the revolution in Chili, has been showing dissatisfaction ever since the result of the presidential election. Edwards having been the choice of the congressionalists for the presidency before the struggle began. The supplanting of Edwards by Admiral Montt is looked on as a triumph of the sword over a civilian. The successful party is divided by other jealousies that have been growing since the victors got the prize they were fighting for.

The examination before the judge of crimes continues to drag along. The evidence of the Baltimore sailors left no doubt of the unprovoked nature of the assault upon them, and that it was prompted by hatred of Americans. Although the English here charged the Americans with trying to bully the Chilians, they now change their tone, and go about accusing Americans of cowardice in not having exacted redress at once.

AN IMPERATIVE DEMAND.

Made on the Chinese Government by the French Minister for the Punishment of Chinese Murderers of Foreigners.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 4.—It is stated that the French minister has made an imperative demand on the Chinese government for the punishment of the rebels who perpetrated the massacre of the Belgian priests and nuns, and also the exemplary degradation and punishment of the mandarins who feasted and encouraged the rioters. The minister, it is said, stated that France would hold China responsible for the outrages, and that it was necessary for his government to know whether China was unable to protect foreigners residing in its territories.

The Chinese profess their ability to punish all who were engaged in the massacre, and are summoning the Mantcha garrisons from the interior towns where there are no signs of disturbance to strengthen the force sent to oppose the rebels. Desultory skirmishes are reported between flying bands of the rebels and the imperial troops. Orders have been given by the government for the immediate execution of all persons except the leaders, who are to be reserved for flogging alive and other tortures, provided they are caught.

No confidence is placed here in the Chinese protests of the insignificance of the outbreak, which is believed to embrace the greater part of Manchuria.

A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.

Father, Mother and Two Children Killed by the Explosion of a Can of Gasoline—The Latter Dead.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 4.—A special from Creston, Ia., says: The family of Jasper Mans, consisting of father, mother and two children were horribly burned yesterday morning by the explosion of a large can of gasoline, that had been stored in the oven of a cook stove and forgotten. The dead and injured are: Jasper Mans, burned on face, arms and body; will die. Mrs. Mans, burned; may recover. Walter Mans, aged 3, dead. Bessie Mans, aged 2, dead.

The accident occurred about 11 o'clock yesterday morning, and it seems the entire family was gathered at that time about the stove. All the doors and windows were still locked and the neighbors who were called to the rescue by the explosion and cries of the injured were obliged to break in the doors. The small room containing the stove was a mass of flame when broken open and its inmates were rescued with great difficulty. The two younger children lived but a short time and the father and mother are suffering the most intense agony from their burns, and cannot live. Mans was a cooper by trade and has lived in this vicinity several years. He is about 30 years old.

A SAD CASE.

Sudden Death of an Old Lady En Route from Ireland to Join Her Only Son in Chicago.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 4.—Among the passengers on the Pacific express which left this city on the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago railway, at 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, was an aged lady named Cusack. As the train was nearing Wooster, O., two ladies chanced to walk to the forward end of the car and were alarmed at the elderly lady's appearance. Thinking she had fainted they grasped her hands but quickly dropped them and screamed for help. Mrs. Cusack was dead. The body was carefully laid out, and at Crestline was taken off the train to be prepared for burial.

Her ticket bore the name of Mrs. Cusack, of Ireland. She left her home in Ireland two weeks ago and was on her way to Chicago to join her only son who is in business in that city. Mrs. Cusack's sudden death was probably due to apoplexy. The officials have found the son and he is now at Crestline to take charge of his mother's remains.

A Distressing and Fatal Accident.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 4.—One of the most horrible accidents imaginable, by which a mother and child were burned to death, happened at 3118 Delany street early Wednesday evening, the victims being Mrs. George Masten and her infant son. The accident was caused by the child upsetting a lamp on a table causing it to explode and scattering the burning oil over the child. The mother, seeing the child in flames, grabbed it in her arms and dashed into the street where she fell, burned almost to a crisp, with the dead body of the child in her arms.

COMMERCIAL REVIEW.

The Condition of Trade Throughout the Country as Disclosed by a Review of the Week's Weekly Review of Collections, Sales, and Shipments—General Summary of the Week's Trade—Philadelphia, Etc.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—R. G. Danforth's weekly review of trade says:

The one sign of unfavorable character in the business situation is that collections at some points are slower and harder than usual, particularly where the low price of cotton has caused holders to defer selling as long as possible. But at the principal western points, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati and St. Paul, collections are very satisfactory, the larger trade centers reporting most favorably in that respect. There is less difficulty at eastern cities, though the south some embarrasment is shown. Money is not particularly stringent for the week, though rather close at Nashville and Montgomery. The speculative markets have been downward on the whole, although wheat has changed in price with sales of 20,000,000 bushels during the week, and the receipts on time at the rate of over 1,000,000 bushels a week, with exports unabated and at the rate of nearly 3,000,000 bushels for the week from Atlantic ports alone. At the expiration of November corn dropped sharply about 4 cents, but the wheat market has been steady, its nature condition. Receipts are increasing, however, and will soon put an end to purely speculative control. Oats are half a cent better, while products are a little lower. Cotton has advanced a sixteenth, to 80¢ cents, with sales of 62,000 bales. Hops and wool are present receipts still far exceed the ordinary receipts of last year. The southern markets are overladen. At Boston merchandise is fairly active, and the dry goods trade satisfactory. Woolens move slowly and sales amount to \$1,000,000 pounds for the week. Boots and shoes are quiet. At Philadelphia the grocery trade is active, the trade in liquors and tobacco fair, and in chemicals steady, but lumber and carriages are dull. Many branches of the western manufacture are thriving, but sales of dry goods are hardly up to the average. Baltimore retail trade is quite active, and at Pittsburgh some improvement is seen in iron, while at Cleveland trade is active, with more demand for money. At Cincinnati has nothing new, and the wool trade but leather and carriages are quiet. At Detroit general trade is fairly equal to last year's. A Chicago receipts of flour are slightly more than a year ago; of dressed beef and oats a third more, of wheat three times as much, and of type four times as large; but a slight decrease in second barley, a decrease of a quarter in corn, a third in lard and wool, and one-half in cheese. Sales of dry goods, clothing, and boots and shoes are unusually good. The trade in hardware is uniformly good; at St. Paul larger than a year ago, and at Duluth sales are large for the season. At Minneapolis the output of flour is 175,000 barrels, against 165,000 barrels last year, and 2,000,000 bushels against 2,100,000 bushels a year ago. Cold weather has stimulated trade at St. Louis. Congress will commence its session next week, and it is encouraging that scarcely any apprehensions appear of mischief from legislation. The treasury has put out during the past week \$2,000,000 more than it has taken in, besides issuing \$1,000,000 more new treasury notes, making the volume of active circulation at this time fully \$100,000,000. The stock market has been comparatively inactive during the week, and the change in the average price of all stocks has been insignificant. The earnings of the railroads are altogether satisfactory.

The business failures occurring throughout the country during the last seven days number for the United States, 20, and for Canada 2, or a total of 22; as compared with totals of 25 last week, and 28 the week previous to the last. For the corresponding week of last year the figures were 312, representing 282 failures in the United States, and 30 in the Dominion of Canada.

THE MAFIA AGAIN.

The Italian Murder Society Removing Possessors of Dangerous Secrets by Poison.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 5.—The mafia is supposed to be at work in this city. Angello Rivero, died in the Italian quarters Thursday night with all the symptoms of arsenical poisoning, and his wife is now seriously ill. "She also exhibits symptoms of arsenical poisoning," Rivero and his wife were recently arrested on the suspicion that they were counterfeiters. He owned valuable mining property near Boulder, Col., and the charge is said to have been trumped up against him, to get him out of the way in order that interested parties might secure this property. Counterfeiting tools are said to have been placed in a cave near his mine, and the United States officials were informed and arrested the unfortunate man. His trial was set for the 1st instant, and although he was taken violently ill, he appeared. The Italian witnesses against him did not appear, and he was told to go home and remain until he got well. He and his wife took rooms in the Italian quarters, where he died in the greatest agony. He knew that he was dying, and said that he was being murdered. He urged his friends to revenge him, and they promised to do so. It is said that Rivero was put out of the way because he possessed dangerous secrets of a gang of Italian counterfeiters who were also members of the mafia. The United States officials are also to take a hand in it.

DEATH IN A GALE.

Twelve Barges Captured in Haverstraw Bay and Many of Their Tenders Supposed to Have Been Drowned.

HAVERSTRAW, N. Y., Dec. 5.—The storm in this vicinity last night was terrific. A serious accident is reported from the river. While the steamer Townsend, of the Cornell Steamboat Co., was towing twelve brick barges down the river, last night, a severe gale suddenly sprang up, struck the tow in Haverstraw bay, sinking or overturning all twelve of the barges, which were loaded with brick for the New York market. It is stated that the barges were manned by about fifty men, thirty of whom were picked up by the Townsend and brought to this place. Those saved claim that at least fifteen or twenty men were drowned. Two men, Richard Nagle and Charles Williams, are known to be lost, having been seen to go down by some of those who were rescued.

The Financial Fiasco in Melbourne.

MELBOURNE, Dec. 4.—The suspensions of banks and other financial institutions, noted in yesterday's dispatches, led to a run on the Standing Bank of Australia, and it soon closed its doors. The bank's capital is £1,000,000, of which £25,000 was called up. The situation is easier to-day and it is believed the crisis has passed. Assistance has been offered by the principal assurance society of the colony. A bill to prevent loss to depositors through compulsory winding up of building societies contrary to their wishes was passed by the colonial parliament last night.